

REMARKS

For the above-identified matter, an Amendment and a First Supplemental Amendment were filed on 4/6/04 and 6/2/04, respectively, in response to an Office Action dated 12/08/03. Subsequently, a personal interview was conducted with Primary Examiner A.M. Thompson on 8/13/04. This Second Supplemental Amendment contains amendments to the claims discussed in the interview. In particular, independent claims 1, 2, 22, and 26 have been amended to include limitations relating to a "second candidate sub-network that includes at least one but not all circuit elements of the first replacement sub-network." Claims 1-24 and 26-31 remain pending after entry of this Second Supplemental Amendment. Also, amendments to the specification and drawings have been made to correct typographical errors in the specification and drawings, as discussed below. In addition, Applicants are concurrently filing terminal disclaimers for copending Application No. 10/066,456 and copending Application No. 10/062,993.

I. Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

In this Second Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have corrected four typographical errors in the drawings and three typographical errors in the specification. No new matter had been added, as all the corrections are supported by the discussion in the specification and by the illustrations in the figures. Specifically, Applicants moved a "From 615" transitional arrow that previously pointed to operation 660 in the flowchart illustrated in Figure 6B to now point to the operation 655. This change is supported by (1) the referenced transition from 615 to 655 in Figure 6A, (2) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 5-7, and (3) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 8-22, which provides the rationale as to why the process 600 of Figure 6 transitions to 655 from 615 and 645.

Applicants also corrected the description of the operation 1445 in Figure 14. This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 51, lines 15-17. In

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1. Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

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Applicants also corrected the description of the operation 1445 in Figure 14. This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 51, lines 15-17. In

addition, Applicants added a "From 2242" transitional arrow to operation 2228 on Figure 22B.

This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 72, lines 14-15.

Applicants also corrected the numbering of operation 2246 in Figure 22C. This correction is supported by the description in the specification on page 72, lines 19-20.

In the specification on page 31, Applicants changed an inaccurate reference to a transition from 615 to 660 in Figure 6B, to an accurate reference regarding a transition from 615 to 655. As mentioned above, this change is supported by (1) the referenced transition from 615 to 655 in Figure 6A, (2) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 5-7, and (3) the discussion in the specification on page 34, lines 8-22, which provides the rationale as to why the process 600 of Figure 6 transitions to 655 from 615 and 645.

On page 72, line 13, Applicants have also changed "2242" to "2202." This is a reference number for the operation that the process 2200 of Figures 22A-22C performs to generate several graphs. As mentioned in the specification on page 65, line 1 to page 66, line 16, the process 2200 generates these graphs at 2202. *See also* page 70, lines 15-17. Finally, on page 73, lines 2-3, Applicants have changed "[a]fter 2244, the process ends," to "[a]fter 2246, the process ends." As shown in Figure 22C, the process 2200 ends after it completes the database tables; as specified in the specification, the process 2200 completes the database tables at 2246, which proceeds 2244 in Figure 22C. *See* page 72, lines 19-20.

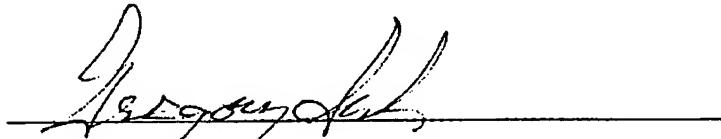
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all pending claims, namely claims 1-24 and 26-31, are in condition for allowance. As such, allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/31/04



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